



September 1, 2004

Pair sentenced in attempt to purchase 28 kilograms of cocaine

A federal judge in Providence has sentenced **Robert Junior Garcia**, 29, and **Edward Bolivar Ortega**, 35, both of New York City, to federal prison for attempting to buy 28 kilograms of cocaine from undercover FBI agents in January. Garcia was sentenced to 87 months in prison and Bolivar to 108 months. Bolivar's sentence was longer because he gave a false name when arrested and charged.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentences, which Chief U.S. District Court Judge Ernest C. Torres imposed yesterday in U.S. District Court, Providence. Judge Torres also fined each defendant \$15,000 and referred them to Immigration authorities for deportation proceedings.

During separate hearings in April and May, Garcia and Bolivar pleaded guilty to federal charges of conspiracy and attempting to possess with intent to distribute more than five kilograms of cocaine. Bolivar had been indicted under an alias, **Manuel Horrah**, claiming to be a Puerto Rican citizen. At his plea hearing he admitted his true identity, admitting also that he is a native of the Dominican Republic and therefore subject to deportation. Because of the deception, Judge Torres determined that Bolivar deserved a sentence enhancement for obstruction of justice.

At the plea hearings, Assistant U.S. Attorney Kenneth P. Madden said that the government had proof that, on January 19, the defendants, arriving in a car with NY plates,

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met undercover federal officers in the parking lot of a Warwick hotel. The defendants and the agents then went to a nearby garage, where agents had placed 28 kilograms of cocaine. Inside the garage, Bolivar opened a hidden compartment on the driver's side of the car and removed ten packages containing cash.

The agents then showed the 28 kilograms of cocaine to the defendants, who, after examining three kilograms, started to load the cocaine into the car's hidden compartment. Agents then arrested them. The ten packages of cash contained a total of \$99,980, which was to have been a down payment for the 28 kilograms of cocaine.

The **Federal Bureau of Investigation** investigated the case, assisted by the **High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force**, which is led by the FBI and the **Rhode Island State Police**. The **Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement** also provided assistance. Assistant U.S. Attorney Madden prosecuted the case.

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